

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

20. (currently amended): A method for sizing a paper with a sizing agent which comprises coating or impregnating a raw paper with a sizing agent consisting essentially of a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide ~~and~~ a cationic polymer and a surfactant, whereby when said paper is subjected to inkjet printing, ink attached to a paper surface quickly penetrates into the inside of the paper while suppressing ink dots formed by ink drops on a paper surface from spreading.

Claim 21. (canceled).

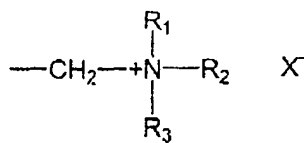
22. (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is fixed to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

23. (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is graft-polymerized to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

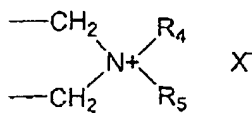
24. (currently amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein said cationic polymer is an acrylic polymer, a vinyl polymer or an allyl polymer, each having a quaternary amino group.

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25. (previously presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein said cationic polymer is a hydrophilic, synthetic resin comprising a structure unit having a quaternary amino group represented by the following general formula:



or



wherein R₁-R₅ are groups selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having 1-7 carbon atoms, aryl groups, benzyl groups and combinations thereof, which may be the same or different, and X⁻ is a counter ion.

26. (previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein said cationic polymer further comprises a structure unit derived from a hydrophilic acrylic, vinyl or allyl monomer, and/or a structure unit derived from a hydrophobic monomer.

Claims 27 and 28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~27~~ 20, wherein said surfactant is a nonionic surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of from 5-15.

Claim 30. (canceled).

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31. (previously presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein a weight ratio of said cationic polymer to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0-50.

32. (previously presented): The method according to claim 31, wherein the weight ratio of said cationic polymer to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.5-20.

33. (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~27~~ 20, wherein a weight ratio of said surfactant to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.05-200.

34. (previously presented): The method according to claim 33, wherein the weight ratio of said surfactant to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is from 0.1-10.